



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 January 1968



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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3.5(c)

16

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The Paul Doumer Bridge: The mid-December bombings of the Paul Doumer Bridge caused the most extensive damage yet to the crossing. Photography of 5 January confirms earlier indications that at least seven spans, or about 2,000 feet, of the mile-long bridge were dropped in the bombings of 14-22 December. Three bridge piers also were destroyed in the same air strikes.

[redacted] the Doumer bridge was not in use on 26 December. There are, however, as many as eight alternate crossings within six miles of the bridge.

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Conditions in Hanoi During the Holiday Truce Periods: A Western observer who travels frequently to Hanoi has reported on the situation in the North Vietnamese capital during the two recent truce periods. During the Christmas standdown, he claimed that the North Vietnamese sounded air raid warnings to support their claims of allied violations of the truce.

North Vietnamese Trade in December: Cargo delivered to North Vietnam by all foreign flag ships in December totaled about 128,400 tons. This is equal to the high monthly average during the first half of 1967 and some 38,000 tons above the July-November average. Petroleum deliveries totaled 28,150 tons and foodstuff amounted to 45,900 tons, bringing the 1967 year-end totals to 245,300 tons and 447,000 tons respectively. Layover time averaged only 15 days in December compared to 33 days in August.

Sixteen Soviet ships--eleven dry cargo and five tankers--delivered a total of 59,750 tons of cargo into North Vietnam in December compared to a monthly average of about 66,750 tons during the first six months of 1967. Four ships originated in the Black Sea, and the remaining twelve came from Far Eastern ports. The volume of shipping into North Vietnam is expected to increase in January. Seven Soviet ships have already arrived this month, at least four others are en route, and about ten ships have been nominated to make voyage to Haiphong this month from Vladivostok.

North Vietnamese exports by sea in December totaled 41,400 tons and included about 35,000 tons of coal. This is almost twice the tonnage shipped in November but still some 28,300 tons below the average exported during the first half of 1967.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Exploits Dr. Spock: Hanoi, in its initial comment on the charges filed against Dr. Spock and four other prominent antiwar demonstrators, has claimed that "their prosecution by the Johnson administration has aroused indignation among large numbers of American people." The statement, broadcast in English on 9 January, reported in detail Dr. Spock's remarks about the legality of the antiwar movement, and quoted other comments by antiwar leaders and by the lawyers who will defend Spock and his four associates.

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